

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 TRSE-00 /062 W

----- 067899

R 060919Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3115

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1411

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, TC

SUBJECT: SHAIKH ZAYID LEAVES FOR SUMMER VACATION

1. SHAIKH ZAYID DEPARTED JULY 3 FOR STATE VISIT TO FRANCE, FOLLOWING WHICH HE WILL VACATION IN MOROCCO AND TUNIS, AND PERHAPS OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL. ACCOMPANYING HIM WERE FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI, MINISTER ECONOMY HAMDAN IBN RASHID AND OIL MINISTER OTAIBA. COMPARED WITH MASS EXODUS LAST SUMMER, PARTY ACCOMPANYING ZAYID THIS YEAR WAS RELATIVELY SMALL. MANY OF ABU DHABI SHAIKHS AND OTHER HANGERS-ON WERE LEFT BEHIND ON THIS OCCASION. ALTHOUGH NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW WHAT HIS PRECISE PLANS ARE, SHAIKH ZAYID MAY COME BACK TO ABU DHABI SOMETIME IN AUGUST. IF HE DOES SO, WE ARE TOLD IT WILL BE AGAINST HIS PERSONAL INCLINATION AND BECAUSE SUWAIDI AND OTHERS HAVE PERSUADED HIM THAT HE SHOULD NOT LET MOMENTUM OF MOVES TO STRENGTHEN FEDERAL AUTHORITY SLACKEN.

2. IN LAST TWO OR THREE PUBLIC APPEARANCES AT WHICH WE HAVE SEEN ZAYID HE HAS LOOKED UNCHARACTERISTICALLY PREOCCUPIED.

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WE THINK MANIFOLD CARES OF RUNNING STATE ARE BEGINNING TO WEIGH UPON

HIM. FOLLOWING THE ACUTE LABOR PAINS THAT ATTENDED BIRTH OF UAE THREE YEARS AGO, THERE HAS BEEN PERIOD OF RELAXATION DURING WHICH EVERYONE HAS BEEN CONTENT TO LET THE INFANT GROW UNDER SHAIKH ZAYID'S GENIAL PARENTAL GUIDANCE. THIS PERIOD ALSO ENCOMPASSED TREMENDOUS JUMP IN OIL REVENUES WHICH ENABLED ZAYID TO INDULGE HIS PERSONAL WONT OF HOB-NOBING WITH ARAB STATESMEN WHO WERE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE FRUITS OF ZAYID'S GENEROSITY. BUT OF LATE ZAYID HAS HAD TO TELL STEADY STREAM OF VISITORS THAT ABU DHABI'S POCKETS ARE RELATIVELY EMPTY. AT SAME TIME, HE HAS BEEN FRUSTRATED THUS FAR IN ATTEMPTING TO OUT-MANEUVER SHAIKH RASHID IN STRENGTHENING FEDERATION. NOR IS HE ENJOYING CONTRAST, INCREASINGLY VISIBLE TO EVERYONE, BETWEEN VIGOROUS AND EFFICIENT PERSONAL ADMINISTRATION OF RULERS IN OTHE EMIRATES AND SCENE IN ABU DHABI, A JUNGLE OF QUARRELING SHAIKHS AND JOSTLING FOR INFLUENCE ON PART OF FOREIGN ADVISORS. ALL THIS, WE SURMISE, HAS MADE HIM RANKY, AS WELL IT MIGHT ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN ON EASY STREET FOR SO LONG AND NOW FACES TOUGHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. IN MEANTIME, MILITARY EXPERTS FROM JORDAN, KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA HAVE ARRIVED, HAVE TOURED THE OTHER EMIRATES, AND ARE NOW GATHERED IN ABU DHABI TO WRITE THEIR REPORTS ON UNIFICATION OF MILITARY FORCES. ACCORDING TO NEWLY-ARRIVED SAUDI AMBASSADOR HERE, THREE GOVERNMENTS PROVIDING EXPERTS HAVE AGREED TO ACT AS TEAM. THEY WILL NOT COMMUNICATE THEIR FINDINGS TO UAEG UNTIL THEY FIRST REPORT TO THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS, WHICH IN TURN WILL JOINTLY DECIDE AT POLITICAL LEVEL ON SINGLE PLAN OF ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO UAEG.

4. PROCEDURE IS INTERESTING ONE. IT APPEARS TO REPRESENT VICTORY FOR SUWAIDI, WHO UNDOUBTEDLY SEES DIFFERING OPINIONS AMONG GROUPS OF EXPERTS AS GIVING SHAIKHS RASHID AND SAQR FURTHER EXCUSE FOR PROCRASTINATION. GOVERNMENTS SUPPLYING EXPERTS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE THEIR RECOMMENDATION READY FOR SHAIKH ZAYID'S RETURN LATER THIS SUMMER.  
STERNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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